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FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION

Letter dated 9 October 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights

I am writing to you in connection with the capture of Abimael Guzmán, the chief of the Shining Path terrorist group, on 12 September 1992 in Lima.

The Government of Peru considers this capture to be a very important achievement in the pacification of the country. This is of special significance just a few weeks from 22 November, the date on which the people of Peru are to elect a new national Democratic Constituent Congress.

In accordance with the anti-terrorism legislation, the chief of Shining Path and 10 members of its high command were on 7 October 1992 sentenced to life imprisonment for the crime of treason.

Since May 1980, the bloody deeds of the terrorist groups in Peru, primarily Shining Path, have caused enormous losses in terms of lives, moral injuries and property damage, which have seriously affected the human rights of all Peruvians.

The terrorist violence has affected the right to life, causing the deaths, as of August 1992, of 24,517 persons. The highest percentage of victims have been among peasant farmers and humble urban shanty-town dwellers, although in recent years there has been an increase in murders of grass-roots leaders, clergymen and foreigners, in particular aid workers.

The terrorist violence has also affected the economic rights of Peruvians, causing large-scale damage to the national infrastructure. The total economic cost of this damage inflicted over 12 years of violence is estimated at $20,502 million, equivalent to 98.64 per cent of Peru's external debt. Paradoxically, when the country was in greatest need of savings and internal economic discipline to stabilize its finances and revive its development process, the terrorists caused serious damage to the infrastructure and sought to undermine the confidence of Peruvian and foreign investors.

The acts of terror committed by Shining Path and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, besides affecting the right to life and other economic and social rights, have seriously affected political and civil rights such as the right to trade union membership, the right to civic organization, the right to work, the right freely to elect authorities, the right of assembly and the right to freedom of expression. To this end the most commonly used terrorist method has been the "armed strike".

In general, the terrorists have tried to destroy the democratic texture of society and to undermine the administration of the lawfully-elected authorities. To all this must be added the aggression against the international community represented by the alliance of the terrorist groups with international drug traffickers.

This situation is beginning to change now that the chief and high command of Shining Path have been captured and sentenced and the Peruvian economy has stabilized and normalized its relations with the international financial community. The Peruvian people are now regaining hopes of being able to advance towards the total pacification of the country. At this juncture, the international community's support, solidarity and understanding are of particular importance for Peru.

In conclusion, I wish to request you, Sir, in conformity with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/42 entitled "Consequences on the enjoyment of human rights of acts of violence committed by armed groups that spread terror among the population and by drug traffickers", kindly to transmit the contents of this letter to the special rapporteurs and working groups of the Commission on Human Rights in order that they may include in their respective reports to the Commission at the forty-ninth session the acts of violence committed by terrorist groups in Peru which, for 12 years, have affected the practical enjoyment of the human rights of a large number of Peruvians.

In addition, I should be especially grateful if you would transmit the contents of this letter to the member States and observer States of the Commission on Human Rights and to the non-governmental organizations accredited to the Commission.

I append to this letter statistics on the serious acts of violence against the people of Peru committed by the terrorist groups in Peru between May 1980 and August 1992.

(Signed) Oswaldo de Rivero
Embassador

Table 1. Deaths due to the political violence in Peru

Year	Members of the security forces	Civilians	Subversives	Drug traffickers	Annual total
1980	1	2	0	0	3
1981	2	2	0	0	4
1982	39	87	44	0	170
1983	92	749	1 966	0	2 807
1984	99	1 758	1 462	0	4 319
1985	65	410	884	0	1 359
1986	136	510	622	0	1 268
1987	126	388	183	0	697
1988	289	1 030	667	0	1 986
1989	348	1 450	1 251	149	3 198
1990	258	1 584	1 542	68	3 452
1991	334	1 287	1 522	37	3 180
1992 1/	306	1 029	329	10	2 874
TOTAL	2 895	10 286	11 872	264	24 517

Source: Peruvian Ministry of Defence, Senate Special Committee, Constitution and Society Institute.

1/ Data up to August 1992.

Table 2. Victims of political violence, by occupation

	1989	1990	1991	1992 1/	Total 89/92	(%)
Civilians	1 450	1 584	1 287	1 029	5 350	44.9
Professionals	87	73	56	43	259	2.2
Businessmen/Entrepreneurs	46	56	73	26	201	1.7
Workers	148	97	89	98	432	3.6
Peasants	700	687	476	379	2242	16.9
Members of rural patrols	0	97	174	164	435	3.7
Grass-roots leaders	n.a	n.a	n.a	27	27	0.2
Members of urban patrols	0	0	0	1	1	0.0
Shanty-town dwellers	260	433	316	210	1 219	10.2
Students	65	73	48	25	211	1.8
Officials	144	62	49	50	305	2.6
Foreigners	0	6	6	6	18	0.2
Members of the security forces	348	258	334	306	1 246	10.5
Members of the armed forces	105	106	156	171	538	4.5
Police officers	243	152	178	135	708	5.9
Subversives/Drug traffickers	1400	1610	1559	739	5 308	44.6
Subversives	1251	1542	1522	729	5 044	42.4
Drug traffickers	149	68	37	10	264	2.2
TOTAL	3198	3452	3180	2 074	11 904	100.0

Source: Peruvian Ministry of Defence, Senate Special Committee.

1/ Data up to August 1992.

Table 3. Estimated total economic cost of the violence 1980-1992
(in millions of US dollars)

	Annual	Cumulative	Economic cost/ External debt
1980-1989	15 040.98	15 040.98	-
1990	3 000.00	18 040.98	-
1991 1/	1 540.00	19 580.98	-
1992 2/	921.40	20 502.38	98.64%

Source: Senate Special Committee Constitution and Society Institute.

1/ Preliminary figure.

2/ Includes preliminary data up to August 1992.

Table 4. Estimated economic cost of destruction of electricity pylons (Millions of $)

	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	Total
Electricity pylons destroyed	155	200	276	162	134	61	174	79	121	32	15	5	
1. Cost of repairs/replacement	2.00	2.58	3.56	2.09	1.73	0.79	2.25	1.02	1.56	0.41	0.19	0.06	18.25
2. Unsold power	7.38	9.52	13.14	7.71	6.38	2.90	8.28	3.76	5.76	1.52	0.71	0.24	67.30
3. Cost of replacement fuel	4.20	5.42	7.48	4.39	3.63	1.65	4.71	2.14	3.28	0.87	0.41	0.14	38.31
4. Security cost	1.13	1.46	2.01	1.18	0.97	0.44	1.27	0.57	0.88	0.23	0.11	0.04	10.29
5. Direct costs (1 + 2 + 3 + 4)	14.71	18.97	26.19	15.37	12.71	5.79	16.51	7.49	11.48	3.04	1.42	0.47	134.15
6. Productive opportunity cost*	257.00	331.61	457.63	268.61	222.18	101.14	288.50	130.99	200.63	53.06	24.87	8.29	2 344.50
Total cost (5 + 6)	271.71	350.59	483.81	283.98	234.89	106.93	305.81	138.48	212.11	56.09	26.29	8.76	2 478.65

Source: Electro peru, Electro Lima, Senate Special Committee.

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* The productive opportunity cost includes the multiplier effects of man hours lost through lack of electric power, and the adjustments of prices and rates resulting from the incorporation in costs of the specific items relating to security and expenditure on insurance against terrorism.